Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



External Marine Protected Area Array Process Update and Guideline Review

North Coast External MPA Array Workshops

January 11-13, 2010 • Fort Bragg, Eureka. and Crescent City, California

Evan Fox, Principal Planner • California MLPA Initiative



Iterative MPA Planning Process

Round 1: External Proposed MPA Arrays

Developed by Community Groups

Round 2: Draft MPA Proposals Developed by the

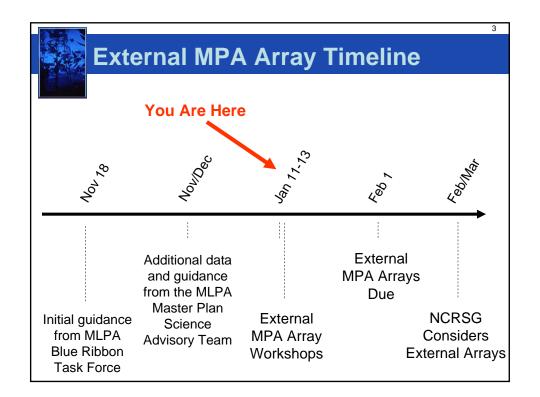
North Coast Regional Stakeholder

Group (NCRSG)

Round 3: Final MPA Proposals Developed by the

North Coast Regional Stakeholder

Group (NCRSG)





Components of an External MPA Array

- One-page cover sheet (proposal name, contributors, contact information)
- One to two page narrative
- Information for each MPA within the proposal
 - Boundaries
 - Designation
 - · Proposed allowed uses
 - Site-specific rationale
 - · Design considerations and other information
- One page document outlining the proposed fate of existing MPAs

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Available Resources

- Previous MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force guidance
- Science and feasibility guidelines
- Draft north coast regional profile
- MarineMap and associated data layers
- Feedback from December MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team meeting



Reference Websites

• Guide to Developing External Arrays http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/guide.asp

- MarineMap
 http://northcoast.marinemap.org/marinemap/
- North Coast Meetings
 http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/meetings_n.asp
- Draft Regional Profile
 http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/regionalprofile_nc.asp

Key Updates



- Data Updates:
 - Ecotrust data (including seaweed harvesters data)
 - Substrate data (including reporting in some locations)
 - Coastal access points
- Levels of protection/allowed uses dropdown menus in MarineMap
- Sharing to both all external array authors and all MarineMap accounts available



MLPA Initiative Evaluations

Science Advisory Team

- Habitat representation and habitat replication
- MPA size and MPA spacing
- Bioeconomic modeling
- Birds and mammals
- Water quality
- Potential impacts to fisheries
- California Department of Fish and Game feasibility evaluation
- California State Parks evaluation
- MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force and the public will also review and provide feedback

Summary of guidelines: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/pdfs/guide_summary.pdf

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Some Guideline Highlights

DFG Feasibility

- Use straight lines based on landmarks and major latitude/longitude coordinates
- Use simple regulations
- Avoid complex arrangements
- Avoid using distance from shore and depths for boundaries and avoid intertidal MPAs

A more complete summary of guidelines can be found at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/pdfs/guide_summary.pdf



Some Guideline Highlights

Science

- MPA size: 9 square mile minimum/18 square mile preferred
- MPA spacing: 31-62 miles between protected habitats
- MPAs should extend from intertidal to deeper waters
- Levels of protection (see slide 11)
- Key habitats and protected habitat size (see slide 12)

A more complete summary of guidelines can be found at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/pdfs/guide_summary.pdf





Levels of Protection

Level of Protection	MPA Types	Activities associated with this protection level
Very high	SMR	No take
High	SMCA SMP	Salmon (H&L or troll in waters >50m depth); coastal pelagic finfish ¹ (H&L);
Mod-high	SMCA SMP	Dungeness crab (trap, hoop-net, diving); salmon (troll in water <50m depth);
Moderate	SMCA SMP	smelts (H&L); redtail surfperch (H&L from shore); California halibut (H&L); coonstripe shrimp and spot prawn (trap); clams (intertidal hand harvest); turf algae² (intertidal hand harvest);
Mod-low	SMCA SMP	Pacific halibut (H&L); lingcod, cabezon, and rockfishes, and greenlings (H&L, spearfishing); red abalone (free-diving);
Low	SMCA SMP	Rock scallop (diving); mussels (hand harvest); bull kelp (hand harvest); ghost shrimp (hand harvest); sea palm (intertidal hand harvest); canopy-forming algae ³ (intertidal hand harvest)



Habitat

M)

Rocky Intertidal

Key Habitat Thresholds

Shallow Rocky Reefs/Kelp Forests (0-30

Representation needed to encompass 90% of biodiversity
~0.55 linear miles
~1.1 linear miles

Deep Rocky Reefs (30-100 M) ~0.13 square miles

Deep Rocky Reefs (>100 M) ~0.13 square miles

Sandy Habitat from sandy beaches to sandy habitat >100 M (where >100 M is available). 1.1 linear miles of sandy beach habitat

Estuarine Habitats 0.12 square miles (77 acres)²

Note: these have not yet been approved by the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team